



THE

2025-2026 Issue 3

pride of Pennsylvania



**Rest in Peace
Our Honored Leader
Joseph L. Wroblewski
International President 1985-1986**



In this issue:

Notes of Interest	2
CC Michael Crossey Articles	3
Merkey Obituary	4
Battistone Obituary	5-8
90 Day Race	9
Lions Service	10-11
Leos Service	12-14
New Members	15-17
District 14-B Service	18
Lions of PA Foundation	19-20
Memorials	21-22
Celebration of Sight and Spirit	23
Sales Tax Certificate	24
No Liquor in Raffles, Broom Ad	25
Beacon Lodge Form, Boosters' Form	26

Send articles and photos to the Editor at the address shown below. The PRIDE accepts no responsibility for unsolicited material, or for the opinions expressed or coincidental names used by authors of articles.

The PRIDE is published quarterly
(Jan., Feb., Mar.), (Apr., May, June),
(July, Aug., Sept.), (Oct., Nov., Dec.)

DEADLINES for ARTICLES:

Feb. 15, **May 15**, Aug. 15 and Nov. 15

We reserve the right to reject any material that is deemed inappropriate to the goals and objectives of Lionism. Material is printed on "space available" basis.

**The PRIDE of Pennsylvania
2025-2026 Issues #3**

The PRIDE of Pennsylvania is the official publication of the Pennsylvania State Council of Lions Clubs and is published electronically, quarterly for \$0.25 per year, deducted from PA Lions Club members' annual state dues by the Pennsylvania State Council of Lions Clubs, 949 East Park Dr., Harrisburg, PA 17111.

2025-2026 Editor Betty Lou Ivell

Volant Lions Club, 14-N

nectarine1@zoominternet.net

2142 Clintonville Rd., Harrisville, PA 16038

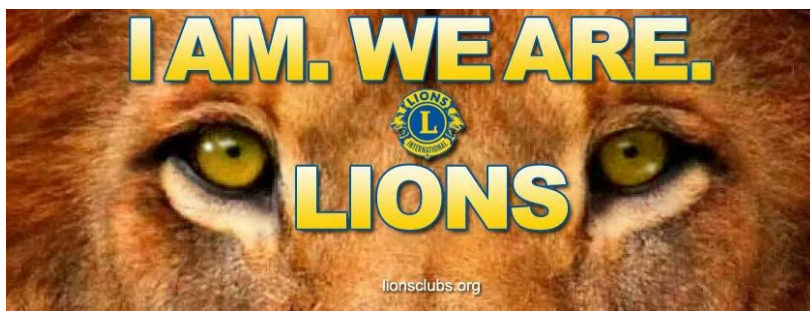
814-786-7215 / 814-673-4051

State Administrator

Deb Burkholder

administrator@palions.org

WE NEED YOU



There will be much more on PIP Joseph L. Wroblewski, "Papa Joe," in the next issue. God rest his soul.



Lion Angela D. Tarr, Summit Lions Club, 14-F, has a new email address: angeladtarr@gmail.com.



<https://palions.tbsonlinestore.com>

From Council Chair Michael Crossey



I don't often look in the rear-view mirror. I focus on the future. But for years, I would look backward and think about the progress, or lack thereof, that I had made in the last 12 months, then I would write my New Year's Resolutions, and vow to do better.

In real life we often pledge: This year I will eat better. I will go to the gym more. Sometimes we're specific. I'll lose those 20 pounds that I've carried for the last 20 years.

And yet, by late January, and now late February, we are too busy for the gym. The diet wasn't really a good idea. By March, most of our resolutions were just good ideas. I'll try again next year.

We do the same things in Lions. We make resolutions. I'll recruit a dozen new members. We'll start three new service projects. Let's finally get that new Lions Club organized. Maybe we can finally get that Leo club open.

But, just like our personal resolutions: "good goal," "good idea." Unfortunately, forgotten by March. Maybe next year.

Why don't resolutions work? Because they are created by hype and emotion, and "Want to," not strategy and "Why To." "WHY To" always beats "Want To."

Emotions don't last. We feel guilty. We feel disappointed. We are longing for a fresh start. Emotions are powerful, but they are temporary. They are also usually vague and grandiose. They sound good, but they don't tell you what to do tomorrow morning.

Big goals without a "Big WHY, and a clear plan," turn into big disappointments.

If you really want to grow, really want to succeed, focus on your plan, your system, not your goals. Goals are destinations. Systems are how you travel.

If your goal is to recruit 12 members, break it down. Invite one person a week to a meeting, a cup of coffee, or even better, a service project. Show them who Lions are. Involve them in Lionism. I assure you one of the four will be inspired to join.

The wrong question is: What can I achieve this year? The right question is: What can I do today?

Think in small, sustainable, consistent, daily habits.

Shift from "all or nothing" to "always something."

Redefine your intentions and your attention. Instead of, I changed my club 50% this year to we became one member better this month. It may not be dramatic, but in time it'll be transformed. Don't worry about this year's goals, concentrate on today's "To Do List."

One consistent, measurable action, done every day, equals 360° of success.

Start today.

Mike Crossey, Council Chair

In Loving Memory of
Craig A. Merkey
District Governor Elect 2025-2026 District 14-D



Craig A. Merkey, 51, of Stevens, passed away suddenly at home from heart failure on Tuesday, April 28th, 2026. He was the loving husband of Samantha (Smith) Merkey. They were married on November 1st, 1998, in Philadelphia. Born in Ephrata, he was the son of John A. Merkey and the late Beverley A. (Rice) Merkey. Craig was a graduate of Ephrata High School, Lock Haven University and earned his master's in Higher Education at the Pennsylvania State University. Craig could often be found camping with his wife, working on his Land Cruisers, or serving his community.

Craig was an active community member, having served as a member of the Baron Stiegel Lions Club for 31 years, the advisor of the Ephrata Intermediate/Middle School Leo Club for 19 years, the auditor of Clay Township, a member and past president of the Association of Aquatic Professionals for 15 years and was a member of the IH8MUD Forum. Craig recently co-founded a swim lessons company, Aquatics by Design. He was employed by Penn State Harrisburg for 15 years as the Associate Director of Recreation & Aquatics.

Craig will be deeply missed by his family, wife, Samantha (Smith) Merkey; daughter, Victoria R. Merkey; son, John R. Merkey; father, John A. Merkey; brother, Brad Merkey, and the surrounding community.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, May 23rd from 10:00am to 12:00pm with a celebration of life service beginning at 12:00pm at Hopeland United Methodist church; 295 N. Clay Road, Lititz, PA 17543.

To order [memorial trees](#) or send flowers to the family in memory of Craig A. Merkey, please visit our [flower store](#).

Carl L Battistone, Sr.

February 21, 2026



Carl L Battistone, Sr.

Retired United States Marine Corps Colonel Carl L. Battistone, Sr., 97, passed away peacefully on February 21, 2026. Carl is the son of the late Domenico and Mary (Napolitan) Battistone, and has been reunited with Ruth, his beloved wife of 72 years, and beautiful daughter, Lisa.



Carl was born August 15, 1928, in Muse, PA. He graduated from Cecil High School in 1946 as class valedictorian. Carl was accepted to Carnegie Institute of Technology for aeronautical engineering, but classes were filled with Servicemen enrolling under the GI Bill, so he decided to enlist in the Marine Corps and qualify for the education benefits. Carl enlisted on Friday, September 13, 1946. He attended boot camp at Parris Island, SC, and from 1946 to 1949 he served from grades of Private to being honorably discharged on September 12, 1949, as a Sergeant. In 1950, due to the start of the Korean War, Carl was recalled to active duty and promoted to Staff Sergeant.

On a warm summer day in July 1950, even though Carl was only 21 years old, his life became complete when he met the love of his life, Ruth Marie Ross. She was volunteering at the food booth at the local Fireman's fair in Houston, PA. She served Carl a hot dog, and he told his best friend, "I'm going to marry that girl".

In 1951, Carl volunteered for Flight School. From 1951 to 1953 he attended Naval Flight School at Pensacola, FL and Kingsville, TX, as a Naval Cadet leading to Commission as Second Lieutenant in 1953. During midpoint of his flight school, in January 1952, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ross of Houston, PA, announced the engagement of their daughter, Ruth Marie, to Naval Cadet Carl. After completion of flight school, Carl had his wings pinned on by his then fiancée, Ruth, on February 4, 1953. Three months later, on May 16, 1953, Carl and Ruth were joined in Holy Matrimony at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Canonsburg, PA.

Services

Visitation

Thursday
February 26, 2026
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Paul Henney Cremation & Funeral
Tribute (Bethel Park, Pennsylvania)

Bethel Park, Pennsylvania

Visitation

Thursday
February 26, 2026
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Paul Henney Cremation & Funeral
Tribute (Bethel Park, Pennsylvania)
Bethel Park, Pennsylvania

Mass

Friday
February 27, 2026
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
St. Valentine Catholic Church
2710 Ohio St.
Bethel Park, PA 15102

From 1953 to 1958 Carl performed his duties as a fighter pilot, stationed in various locations and Marine Corps Air Stations (MCAS), including Cherry Point, NC, Japan, Korea, Quantico, VA, and Norfolk, VA. During that time, he was promoted to First Lieutenant, then Captain.

Additionally, during that time, daughters Ann and Lisa were born.

From September 1958 to September 1960, Carl served as an all-weather fighter pilot with the British Royal Navy at the Royal Navy Air Station (RNAS) Yeovilton, England. During this tour he spent time on aircraft carriers HMS Victorious and HMS Ark Royal. While in England son, Carl, Jr., and daughter, Dona, were born.

Upon returning to the U.S., from 1960 to 1965 Carl performed his duties as an all-weather fighter pilot, Aviation Safety Officer, and Management Engineer in the U.S., Japan and Taiwan, additionally being promoted to Major. Daughter, Mari, was born during this time.

Carl attended the Air Command and Staff College, Air University, Alabama as a student from 1965 to 1966.

From July 1966 to August 1967, Carl served as Executive Officer, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron VMFA-251, Marine Air Group (MAG) 32, and Commanding Officer, Marine Air Base Squadron (MABS) 32, MAG-32, at MCAS Beaufort, SC.

From September 1967 to September 1968, Carl served his country proudly at Chu Lai and Danang, Republic of Vietnam, as Executive Officer of VMFA-115, and Aviation Safety/Standardization Officer, being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel shortly after his arrival. While in Vietnam, Carl flew 157 combat missions in the F-4 Phantom fighter jet. On December 29, 1967, "for heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight" during a mission supporting U.S. troops on the ground in Quang Ngai Province, Carl's "courage, exceptional aeronautical ability and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of great personal danger" earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Carl returned to the U.S. and his family in September 1968 after his tour of duty in Vietnam, being stationed at MCAS Cherry Point, NC as Assistant Wing G-3 and Commanding Officer of VMFA-513, MAG-14.

Carl took leave from duty from August 1970 to January 1972 to attend Washington & Jefferson College, Washington, PA, graduating Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. Second son, Marc, arrived during this time.

After college, Carl returned to duty as Director, Aviation Instruction Department, Marine Corps Education Center, Quantico VA, from 1972 to 1974.

In 1974 to 1975, Carl relocated to Newport, RI as a student in the College of Naval Warfare, Naval War College, where he graduated with Highest Distinction.

During this time Carl was promoted to Colonel.

For his last tour of duty overseas, Carl served as Commanding Officer, MAG-15, 1st Marine Air Wing (MAW), at Iwakuni, Japan from August 1975 to July 1976. It was on July 20, 1976, that he took his last flight as a USMC fighter pilot.

Carl's last active-duty position was Head, Combat Readiness Branch, Headquarters, USMC, Washington, DC, from 1976 to 1980. Carl completed his illustrious career in the United States Marine Corps when he retired as Colonel on June 1, 1980.

During his 33+ years career, Carl was decorated with the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star with Combat "V", Air Medal with Star, Air Medal with Numeral 12, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Star, Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with four Stars, United Nations Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Cross of Gallantry with Palm and Frame, and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device.

Upon retirement, Carl and Ruth moved back to their home state of Pennsylvania, settling in Bethel Park in the house they had purchased as original owners and continued to own since 1967.

In keeping with his dedication to service, Carl joined the Bethel Park Lions Club in 1981. During his time as a Lion, he held the positions of President, Deputy District Governor, District Governor and International Director, where he and Ruth traveled across the U.S. to various functions and state conventions, and around the world. In addition to many other awards and certificates, he received two International President's Awards, two International Leadership Awards, and an International President's Appreciation Certificate and Advancement Membership Key. He was a Melvin Jones Fellow and a PA Lions Fellow.

In previous years, Carl had served Bethel Park in other capacities, including Vice-Chairman of the Bethel Park Centennial Committee, Neighborhood Crime Watch Coordinator, and Emergency Management Coordinator, appointed by PA Governor Thornburgh in 1986.

Carl was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Order of Daedalians, a national fraternity of military pilots and the Marine Corps Aviation Association. He was a devout Catholic and a strong, proud, humble and loving man.

In addition to his wife, daughter, and parents, Carl was preceded in death by his sister, Anna, brother, Dominick, and wife, Rochelle, brother-in-law, Norman Bourg, sister-in-law, Eileen Battistone, and sister-in-law, Margaret Ross. Surviving are one sister, Mary Bourg, of McMurray, PA; two brothers, Joseph Battistone of McMurray, PA and Frank (Donna) Battistone of Little Rock, AR; one brother-in-law, Samuel Ross, of Upper St. Clair, PA; two sons Carl (Dena) Battistone, Jr. of South Fayette, PA and Marc (Tammie) Battistone of Valencia, PA; three daughters, Ann (Douglas) Paul of Troy, OH, Dona (Eric) Tilyou of Severna Park, MD, and Mari (Roger) Brusnahan of Alexandria, VA; son-in-law Christopher Brown of Dumfries, VA; twenty-one grandchildren; twenty-two great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to your local Lions Club.

Family and friends are welcome from 2-4 & 6-8 PM on Thursday, February 26th in the Paul Henney Cremation and Funeral Tributes, Inc., 5570 Library Road, Bethel Park. A Lion's Service will be held, Thursday, at 7 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday, February 27th, 10 AM at in Our Lady of Hope Parish/St. Valentine Church, Bethel Park, followed by a committal service at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, 2900 Washington Road, McMurray.

Click [here \(https://youtu.be/-FX3ceJVINU? si=RB_qBcft0cFQoSzd\)](https://youtu.be/-FX3ceJVINU?si=RB_qBcft0cFQoSzd) to watch Mr. Battistone's Lions Service.

Click [here \(https://youtu.be/Ug0Rt6b1c_U? si=3gEEcrYKUP9uBqMt\)](https://youtu.be/Ug0Rt6b1c_U?si=3gEEcrYKUP9uBqMt) to watch Mr. Battistone's Military Honors.

Editor's note: Carl Battistone was District Governor from Bethel Park Lions Club, 14-B, for the 1989-1990 term; he was elected to serve a two-year term as an International Director at the 81st International Convention held in Birmingham, England, June 29-July 3, 1998. He served as International Director from 1998 to 2000.



Carl Battistone 1953



March 9, 1953



December 18, 1960



Mrs. Carl L. Battistone

Thank you, Colonel Battistone both for your military service and for your Lions' service.

Rest in peace.



Ruth M. (Ross) Battistone
September 23, 1931, to
July 20, 2025



PA Lions...**"START YOUR ENGINES".....**

The 90 day race to the finish is underway!

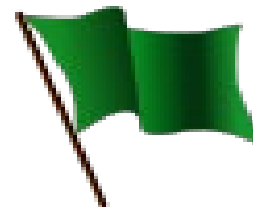


District Governors.....

For every new member a club in your District enters into the portal during the months of April, May, and June 2026, you will get one lap around the MD-14 Track. The club in each zone with the most new members, during this period, in a district by the end of June will receive a banner patch; the Zone Chair of the winning zone will win a Mission 1.5 Growth Pin. The District with the most laps on June 30th wins the race!

Banner patches, awards, and bragging rights await you in Victory Lane!

And we are off.....





The **Hazleton Lions Club, 14-W**, recognized **Nicholas Valentine** with a Melvin Jones Fellowship during a recent meeting of Knights of Columbus Council #3501 in Middletown, PA. The honor is the Lions Club's highest form of recognition for humanitarian service.

Valentine was celebrated for his continued leadership of "Smiles for Abby," the nonprofit organization he founded in March 2024 to support young adults diagnosed with cancer. His compassion, dedication and commitment have helped the organization make a meaningful impact in the lives of those facing serious illness.

For more information or to support the mission of "Smiles for Abby," visit www.smilesforabby.org.

*Pictured are **Brian Smith**, PA State Treasurer; **Nicholas Valentine** and **PDG Andy Piskel**.*

Contributed by **PDG Andy Piskel**





The **Monroeville Lions Club, 14-B**, presented a check to the **Meals on Wheels** program sponsored by PitCare. The program delivers a hot meal and a bagged lunch to clients in Monroeville, Pitcairn, and Trafford, PA, five days a week. Along with the Meals on Wheels program, donations were made to five local area food banks as well as the Gateway School District Food Pantry and Backpack Program in Monroeville. In all, donations totaling \$5,500.00 were granted. This was in support of Lions International's initiative for an impactful week dedicated to creating positive change to support the critical issue of hunger and food insecurity.

Pictured above are: **Lion David Zimmer**, Monroeville Lions' Funds Distribution Chair; **Dan Casey**, Meals on Wheels Manager; **Michele Gutman**, Monroeville Lions IPKL and Meals on Wheels volunteer and **PDG Chris Raynak**, Monroeville Lions Club secretary.

Contributed by **PDG Chris Raynak**



Where there's a need, there's a Leo



"Leadership, Experience, Opportunity." That's what makes a Leo. Members of Leo clubs embody the best qualities of our incredible organization. They are devoted young people who realize the power of action. Together, Leos and Lions form a powerful partnership — one of mutual respect, where Lions learn from the innovative insights of Leos, and where Leos gain access to the proven strategies of those who have successfully served the world for decades.

The Leo Club Program has been around for over 60 years. In 1967, the first Leo club was founded in Abington, **Pennsylvania**, by the Glenside Lions Club. The club created the acronym, "Leadership, Equality and Opportunity," and then chose the school colors of maroon and gold to serve as the Leo club colors. "Equality" was later changed to "Experience."

With Mission 1.5 in full swing, it is important to take advantage of the opportunities to **transition our LEOS** into their sponsoring Lions Club OR start a LEO-Lions Club.

Charter a New LEO-Lions Club:

- New club requires a minimum of 20 members, 10 of which must be a former LEO who has served for at least one (1) year and one (1) day.
- Former LEOs will need to be transferred to the LEO-Lion club in the portal so their record is merged.
- LEO-LION club members can meet virtually to accommodate those in college and participate in service projects.
- Encourage the LEO-Lions to recruit their peers to join and every year, welcome other LEOs who are aging out.
- Young adult membership is an exclusive membership type for those under the age of 30. They receive a 50% discount on international dues and a charter or entrance fee waiver when they join the LEO-Lion club.
- Chartering this LEO-Lion club follows the same procedure for chartering a Lions Club.



Recommendation:

Review your list of LEOS aging out in your district. If there is a club with 10 or more, you already have the foundation to start a LEO-Lion club.

LEO to Lion Benefits:

- Continued service with even more service opportunities
- 50% discount on international dues

- Years of Leo service credited to their Lion record
- Continued interaction with their LEO club friends (LEO-Lion club)
- Opportunity to join the LinkedIn Leo-Lion professional networking group
- Participation virtually if away at college
- Participation in service projects while at college and when home on school breaks.
- Resume building community service
- Leadership and life skills
- Opportunities for leadership positions in Lions
- Contribution to a cause greater than oneself

District 14-K LEOs attend the LEO Leadership Roadshow



In March, 16 LEOS from District 14-K attended the LEO Leadership Roadshow presented by State LEO Coordinator, PCC Linda Zaneski. Topics included: Working in Teams, Public Speaking, Time Management, Member Motivation, Mental Health and Well Being and LEO to LION transition. District K LEO Coordinator PDG Kathy Duellely coordinated the event. If your district is interested in scheduling a Roadshow, contact Dr. Zaneski at papageantmom@hotmail.com.

Contributed by **PCC Dr. Linda Zaneski**

Lion Barry Marteny was awarded the **Pa Counselors Distinguished Service Award** for his service to **District 14-P**. Lion Barry is District 14-P's Leo Club Representative, District Administrator and Lion Eyes Newsletter Editor. He serves the Avon Grove Lions as Club Administrator and is Leo Club Liaison to the Oxford Helping Hands Leo Club.

*Pictured left to right: **Lion Barry Marteny**, **District Governor Mike Hepner** and **International Director Bert Nelson**.*



Leos Serving



The **Carlisle Area Lions Club, 14-C**, in cooperation with the **Carlisle Family YMCA** chartered the **Alpha Leo Club** for 12-18 year-olds who are wanting to help others and do service in their community.

Happy 30th Anniversary to the
Kutztown Leo Club, 14-P!!!

We thank them for the service to our community. From doing clothes/food drives, to working at Friend Inc, to the Relay for Life, we thank all past, present, and future Leos. You make us proud.

Special thanks to **Lion Joseph Chambers** for mentoring and leading this group.

All articles contributed by **Lion Barry Marteny**



WELCOME to these NEW LIONS!



PCC Karen Brady recently inducted a new member, Pam Stettler, into the **Upper Lehigh Lions Club, 14-K.**

Pictured left are: PCC Karen Brady, new Lion Pam Stettler and Lion Kathi Smoll, Pam's sponsor.

Contributed by **Lion Barry Marteny**



The **Boiling Springs Lions Club, 14-C**, has welcomed seven new members to their club within the last few months.

*Pictured above are four of the seven with other Lions of the club: **David "Slim" Connors**, a past president; **Jim Compton**, president; **new member Nick Pallente**; **Lion Larry Morrison**, membership chair; **new member Charles "Chip" Kacsur**, **new member Ellen Miller**; **Lion Lori Gossert**; **new member Jeff Miller**; **Lion Dana Gossert**. (New members not shown: **Hayley E. Anderson**, **Shane Wivell** and **Gary G. Martin**.)*

Contributed by **Lion Barry Marteny**

WELCOME to these NEW LIONS!



District Governor Doug Nace (above) attended the **Jefferson Community Lions Club, 14-C**, meeting and was honored to officially welcome **new member Lion Pamela Bynaker**. Lion Pam was sponsored by **Lion Tammy Martin** (left).



Lion Donald McKay, Membership Chair, is shown inducting **new member Lion Lewis Rinaman**, into the **Kennett Square Lions Club, 14-P**. His sponsor **Lion David Miller**, club president, is shown on the right.

All articles on this page were contributed by **Lion Barry Marteny**.

District Governor Doug Nace is shown (right) at the induction of **new Lion Norman Russell Wertz** of the **Susquehanna Lions Club, 14-C**.

*Pictured right are: **DG Doug**, **Norman Wertz** and his sponsor, **Lion Tim Zortman**.*



PDG Dennis Alleman inducted three new members into the **Greencastle Lions Club, 14-T**.

*Pictured left are: **PDG Alleman**, **King Lion Darrell Miller**, sponsor of **new Lion Ralph Hodder**; **new Lion Andrew Long**, sponsored by **Lion James Kendall** and **Lion David Mickey**, sponsored by **Lion James Kendall**.*

WELCOME to these NEW LIONS!



District Governor Barb Dudek (left) is shown inducting **Vicki Duffin**, the **newest** member of the **Lower Paxton Lioness Lions Club, 14-T**. Also shown is her sponsor, **Lion Pat Negherbon**.



New Holland Lions Club, 14-D, welcomed its **newest member, Shanna Precise**, shown here (above) with her sponsor, **Lion James Ertzgard**.



Shown (left) is the **newest** member of the **Lower Swatara Lions Club, 14-T, Bethany Scalise**. Also pictured are the club's president, **Lion Connie Easter** (right) and Bethany's sponsor, **Lion Kelsey Varner** (left).



Shown above (center) is the **newest** member of the **Bentleyville Lions Club, 14-M, Linda Cherok**.

Also pictured are her sponsor **Lion Linda Crow** (left) and **PDG Jack Bower**.



Camp Hill Lions Club, 14-C, welcomed a **new member, Lion Ronald Blauch**. He is shown here (center) with **Lion James Gates**, his sponsor and **PDG Dennis Bell**, secretary of the club.

All articles on this page were contributed by **Lion Barry Marteny**.

Lions Clubs of District 14-B Help See the Future

The Lions Clubs of District 14-B have once again demonstrated their enduring commitment to vision and community health through a generous donation that will have a lasting impact on patient care. Recently, 14-B proudly funded a state-of-the-art diabetic retinopathy screening camera for UPMC, expanding access to early detection and prevention of vision loss for countless individuals living with diabetes. The new screening camera represents a significant step forward in addressing this challenge. The camera will be used directly within the UPMC clinic, allowing patients to be screened during routine visits rather than requiring separate appointments with specialists. UPMC clinic staff expressed sincere appreciation for the Lions' support. "This donation enhances our ability to provide comprehensive care to patients with diabetes."

"This is exactly the kind of project Lions Clubs are proud to support," said a representative from Lions District 14-B. "Sight conservation has always been at the heart of our mission, and this donation ensures that people in our region have access to modern screening tools that can truly save sight."

The project is also a testament to the collective power of Lions Clubs across District 14-B. Precipitated by a suggestion from the Long Range Planning committee - the honorary committee of Past District Governors of 14-B - the project took root where funds were raised through donations from the District treasury, clubs, as well as individual contributions and local foundations equaling more than \$12,000.00. That was then matched by a generous grant of \$10,180.00 from the Lions of PA Foundation. Each dollar reflects the dedication of Lions who believe strongly in service, prevention, and tangible results.

This latest contribution to UPMC Ophthalmology Department certainly highlights the Lions' motto: *"We Serve."*



(l-r) UPMC staff Zeila Hobson and Lion Dr. Jake Waxman join 14-B PDGs Chris Raynak, Mike Crossey, Rich Keller, Mary Jane Keller, and Harold Fletcher.

Contributed by **PDG Chris Raynak**

DONATING YOUR VEHICLE IS AS EASY AS CAN BEE



Donate
Today

LIONS OF PA FOUNDATION

<https://careasy.org/nonprofit/lions-of-pennsylvania-foundation>

(Right) **PDG Linda Lupro** accepted a check from the **Lions of PA Foundation** presented by **PDG Dick Hautz**. The next step will be presentation of this check to the Jay Township Parks and Recreation Board, collaborating with **Bennetts Valley Lions, 14-J**, on improvements to a local park.

Contributed by **Lion Barry Marteny**



(Left) **Bennetts Valley Lions Club, 14-J**, member **PDG Linda Lupro** presented a grant from the **Lions of PA Foundation** to the Jay Township Parks and Recreation Board (Lion Christine, Natalie and Adam). Part of the grant supports accessibility improvements at the Valley Disc Golf Course in the Jay Township Community Park in Weedville.

Contributed by **Lion Sue Houston**

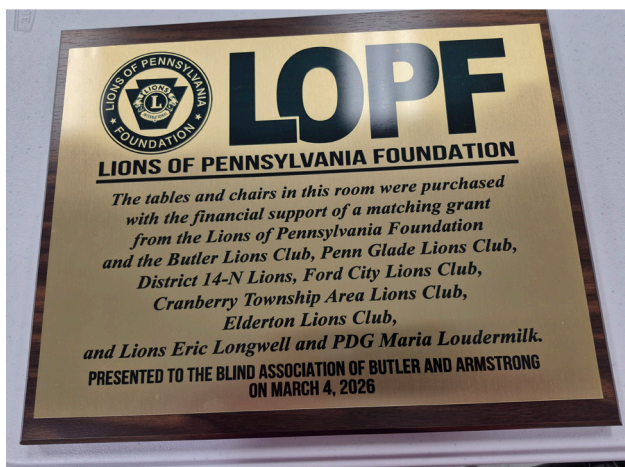




The **Butler Lions Club, Penn Glade Lions Club, District 14-N Lions, Ford City Lions Club, Cranberry Township Area Lions Club, Elderton Lions Club** and **Lions Eric Longwell and PDG Maria Loudermilk**, proudly accomplished the required steps to become recipients of a matching grant from the **Lions of Pennsylvania Foundation (LOPF)**. New tables, chairs, and dollies were purchased for the newly renovated education and meeting room at The Blind Association of Butler and Armstrong. The goals of safety, health, cleanliness and ease of use were accomplished. The merchandise was presented to the Blind Association of Butler and Armstrong on March 4, 2026.

Contributed by **Lion Connie Ivill**

*Pictured right **PDG Dr. Donald Gibala, Lions Connie Ivill, Caroline and Mike Winkler, PDG Linda Gibala, DG Brad Baillie, Lion Jennifer Bindernagle.***





PDG H. Robert Mitchell
July 10, 1947 - December 19, 2025
Summit Lions Club, 14-F
District Governor 2015-2016
and 2018-2019
Lion for 30 years



PDG James W. Ardrey
1939 – February 18, 2026
Salisbury Township Lions Club, 14-D
District Governor 2000-2001
Lion for 54 years



PCC David R. Aten
February 17, 1932 – February 25, 2026
Emmaus Lions Club, 14-K
Past Council Chair 1980-1981
Lion for 54 years



PDG Joan V. Catherman
August 18, 1932 – March 26, 2026
Milton Lions Club, 14-G
District Governor 2008-2009
Lion for 25 years



PDG Lester R. Good
October 28, 1933 – April 5, 2026
Geistown-Richland Lions Club, 14-J
District Governor 1998-1999
and 2012-2013
Lion for 52+ years

We Served!

**These Lions served for more than 215 years.
We thank them for their service.
May they be at peace in their well-deserved rest.**



Lion Sally J. Kornprobst
December 31, 1956 – April 12, 2026
Adams Township Lions Club, 14-J
**Wife of District Governor
Harry Kornprobst**
District Governor 2018-2019
and 2023-2024
Lion for 34+ years



PDG Marsha L. Johnston
October 31, 1948 – April 17, 2026
Upper Lehigh Lions Club, 14-K
District Governor 2016-2017
Lion for 20 years



PDG Elizabeth A. McElwee
December 9, 1944 – April 19, 2026
Tri Valley/Valley View Lions Club, 14-U
District Governor 2003-2004
Lion for 29+ years

We Served!



Lion Denise A. Kempa
May 23, 1954 – May 23, 2026
Formerly Ambridge Lions Club, 14-N
Wife of PDG Larry Kempa
Lion for 21+ years

**These Lions have served for more than 104 years.
We thank them for their service and wish them peace
in their well-deserved rest.**



A CELEBRATION OF SIGHT & SPIRIT

PATRIOTIC MUSICAL PERFORMANCE at THE STRAND

Honoring Helen Keller's Legacy and America's 250th Anniversary



JOIN US!

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026

2:00 PM

THE STRAND THEATER

TICKETS:

\$55 PER PERSON

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Funds support:



Local blind and visually impaired programs.
(\$15 donation per ticket)



Life-changing research to fight blindness.
(\$15 donation per ticket)

BONUS FUNDRAISING RAFFLE at the event!

Proceeds will be split three ways

There will also be an opportunity for a table to promote Lions Club recruitment.
Contact: Judy Kahl at 724 272 4475.

Checks should be payable to Lions Club of Cranberry Township by no later than May meeting.



**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Revenue**

CERTIFICATE OF SALES TAX EXEMPTION

PA LIONS MULTIPLE DISTRICT NO 14
949 E PARK DR HARRISBURG PA 17111-2810

Sales Tax Exemption Number: 75384600



Exemption Type: Charitable

Expiration Date: 02/28/2031

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

USE OF THIS CERTIFICATE FOR PERSONAL OR NONEXEMPT PURCHASES WILL RESULT IN
CANCELLATION OF EXEMPT STATUS

This certificate is not assignable or transferable.

This is the Lions' new tax exemption form. Please use this one now.



NO LIQUOR IN RAFFLES!

Liquor not permitted in basket raffles

Please be aware: A popular staple in basket raffles is a “no-no.”



After researching the matter with the Executive Director of the PA House of Representatives' Liquor Committee and the PA Liquor Control Board, MD-14 legal counsel Lion Ashley Grimm reported that “liquor is not permitted to be in a basket for purposes of a raffle. This also includes silent auctions.

“This equates to selling liquor without a license,” Lion Grimm said. “A wine and spirits gift card is permitted to be included in a raffle basket, though.”

Lion Grimm’s research supported the opinion expressed by Lawrence County Treasurer Richard Rapone in a recent New Castle News story that had prompted MD-14 State Council Chair Bill Morgan to contact Lion Grimm.

As part of the News story, Capt. Jamie Jones of the LCB Enforcement Bureau said including any type of alcoholic beverage – be it a six pack of beer, a bottle of wine, a bottle of whiskey or the like – is a violation of the Pennsylvania Liquor Code, Title 47, and is an unclassified misdemeanor offense. The fine upon conviction is \$500, levied to the organization sponsoring the fundraiser and not the donor of the basket.

In the News story, Rapone pointed out, under the state’s small games of chance law, it is illegal to host basket raffles at fundraising dinners used to benefit someone who is sick.

NEXSTEP
COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS
Exclusive Licensee of O-Cedar

Nexstep Commercial Products (formerly known as Cornelia Broom Company and France Broom Company) – Exclusive Licensee of O-Cedar – is now the **One and Only Official Broom Supplier to the Lions!**

Nexstep Commercial Products manufactures high-quality Lions Club Corn Brooms to the same standards the Lions Club have used for over 75 years. The Lions Club Broom Sale has proven to be a major fundraising event that's a very easy way to generate funds.

Contact Information
Lanny Balentine, PDG • Lions Club Sales Representative
Cell: (864) 444-1325 • Email: lbalen1010@aol.com

Lions Club International

Nexstep Commercial Products
1450 W. Ottawa Street • Paxton, IL 60957-0071
Phone: 1-800-252-7666 • Fax: 1-217-379-9901
Email: sales@ocedarcommercial.com
www.ocedarcommercial.com

O cedar commercial
Makes Your Life Easier

©2017 Nexstep Commercial Products, all rights reserved. Nexstep Commercial Products exclusive licensee of O-Cedar.



Be a 2026-2027 The Pride Booster

Help spread the good news of the Pennsylvania Lions in the Pride of Pennsylvania Publication.

For a \$5 per line donation your name will appear in the June 2026 online issue of The Pride.

Last Name _____

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

District 14- _____ Club _____

Your title (circle one) IP PIP ID PID CC PCC DG VDG PDG Lion Leo

Spouse/Partner's Name _____

Spouse/Partner's Title (circle one) IP PIP ID PID CC PCC DG VDG PDG Lion Leo

_____ 1 Line - \$5 _____ 2 Separate Lines \$10

One name, one line is \$5....Two names, one line is \$5....Two names, two lines are \$10